

Proclamation 6849 of November 9, 1995**Thanksgiving Day, 1995**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In 1621, Massachusetts Bay Governor William Bradford invited members of the neighboring Wampanoag tribe to join the Pilgrims as they celebrated their first harvest in a new land. This 3-day festival brought people together to delight in the richness of the earth and to give praise for their new friendships and progress. More than 300 years later, the tradition inspired by that gathering continues on Thanksgiving Day across America—a holiday that unites citizens from every culture, race, and background in common thanks for the gifts we receive from God.

As we pause to reflect on the events of the past year, we recognize anew our Nation's many and wonderful blessings. We are deeply grateful for the abundance that keeps America strong and prosperous; for our freedoms and the freedom spreading to people all over the world; for the new hope of peace in regions where people have suffered much but are working hard toward reconciliation; for the 50 years of international cooperation that have followed the end of World War II; and especially for the generosity and love that united our Nation after the tragedy in Oklahoma City. Let us open our hearts to the grace that makes all good things possible and acknowledge God's care for our world.

Let us each take time to offer thanks for the bounty of our own lives and for the relatives and friends that gather with us to share food and companionship on this special day. We give praise for the relationships that sustain us—in our families, churches, schools, and communities. We voice our appreciation for the satisfaction of work and the joys of leisure, and, most of all, we give thanks for the children that enrich our lives and remind us daily that we are the stewards of the earth and all its possibilities.

This cherished season also calls us to look forward to the challenges that lie before us as individuals and as a country. With God's help, we can shoulder our responsibilities so that future generations will inherit the wealth of opportunities we now enjoy. In everything we do, we must plan for the Thanksgivings to come and continue our efforts to build an America where everyone has a place at the table and a fair share in our Nation's harvest.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23, 1995, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all the people of the United States to assemble in their homes, places of worship, or community centers to share the spirit of goodwill and prayer; to express heartfelt gratitude for the blessings of life; and to reach out in friendship to our brothers and sisters in the larger family of mankind.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-

five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6850 of November 15, 1995

National Great American Smokeout Day, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Children are our Nation's most precious resource and most sacred obligation. And all of us—whether parents or guardians, teachers or coaches, ministers or rabbis, friends or government officials—can play a role in nurturing young people and working to ensure their future health and happiness. Our children look to us for guidance, and we must do all we can to provide them with examples of personal responsibility and good citizenship.

Yet, every day, some 3,000 young Americans become regular smokers, falling victim to negative influences and provocative advertisements and putting themselves at risk of the diseases caused by nicotine addiction. Nearly 1,000 of these children will die prematurely, joining the more than 400,000 Americans who lose their lives to tobacco-related illnesses each year. For a country so deeply devoted to the protection of children, such numbers are a national tragedy.

Recognizing the vital need to reverse these devastating statistics, my Administration has proposed measures to limit children's access to tobacco products and to reduce tobacco's appeal. In seeking to protect our children, we join the countless caring citizens who are observing the "Great American Smokeout," a nationwide effort to raise awareness of nicotine addiction and the deadly risks associated with tobacco use. Working together on this day and every day throughout the year, we can create a brighter, healthier future for young Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 16, 1995, as National Great American Smokeout Day. I call upon all Americans to join together in an effort to educate our children about the dangers of tobacco use, and I urge smokers and non-smokers alike to take this opportunity to begin healthier lifestyles that set a positive example for young people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON